GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2699
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2000
EXEMPTION OF PROJECTS FROM TECHNO ECONOMIC CLEARANCE
ANANTRAO GUDHE

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to exempt projects upto Rs.5000 crores from the techno-economic clearance in a bid to further decentralise and expedite investment decisions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of power projects held up due to bureaucratic delays or differences between the Central Electricity Authority and independent private power producers; and

(d) the action plan formulated for the current year for ensuring completion of ongoing projects particularly in Maharashtra?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM)

(a) & (b) : Government, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (i) of Section 29 of the Electricity(Supply) Act, 1948 (54 of 1948), has exempted inter-alia, schemes for thermal generating stations prepared by a Generating Company Selected through a process of competitive bidding having an estimated capital expenditure of upto Rs.5000 crores and conforming to the factors notified in the amendment dated 23.5.1997 to the tariff notification dated 30.3.1992, from having to obtain concurrence of the Central Electricity Authority (CEA).The capital cost limits beyond which various schemes are required to obtain the concurrence of CEA have been raised from time to time in line with the policy of liberalisation and delegation of powers and due to other reasons viz., competitive bidding having been made mandatory for award of power generation projects to private sector and for Speedy development of projects by doing away with multilevel scrutiny, etc.

(c) : None of the private sector power projects is held up in CEA on account of bureaucratic delays etc. The projects are considered for accord of techno-economic clearance as soon as the essential inputs/clearances are tied up by the concerned project developers.

(d) : A total capacity of around 4245 MW, both from thermal as well as hydel generation, was programmed to be commissioned during the current financial year out of which a capacity of around 2907 MW (as on 31.1.2000) has already been commissioned. Apart from this, an additional capacity of 48 MW has also been commissioned, which had not been included in the programmed capacity addition. There are no ongoing thermal power projects in the State of Maharashtra to be commissioned during the financial year 1999-2000. In Maharashtra, it was programmed to commission two units of 12 MW each at Dudhganga Hydro-electric Project and two units of 250 MW each at Koyna Stage-IV HE Project during the period in question. All these 4 units have already been rolled/commissioned. Efforts are being made to advance commissioning of one unit of 250 MW at Koyna Stage-IV HE Project in the current financial year, which was originally scheduled for commissioning during the next year i.e. 2000-01.